

7303DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-2 and 4, drawn to a method.

Group II, claim(s) 5-7, drawn to an article.

The inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The applicants technical feature which is common to both groups is the substrate being made by placing a glass substrate in an atmospheric pressure plasma apparatus adapted to generate an atmospheric pressure plasma between electrodes thereof for treatment of an object with the plasma using a gas (A) as an ambient gas for atmospheric pressure plasma, imparting the substrate with an antistatic property by the plasma wherein A is argon, helium, neon, xenon or nitrogen.

This feature is not the applicants' special technical feature over the prior art of Fukuda et al. (US Pub. No. 2003/0113479). In particular, Fukuda et al. teach a glass substrate (0069) in an atmosphere pressure plasma apparatus (title) adapted to generate an atmospheric pressure plasma between electrodes thereof (Figures, 0097,

0075, 0105) for treatment of the substrate with the atmospheric pressure plasma (0129-0131). The atmospheric pressure plasma uses an ambient gas of nitrogen (0127) and the substrate can then be provided with antistatic properties using the above apparatus (0066).

Due to the above technical feature being taught in the above prior art reference, the feature is not the applicants' special technical feature over the prior art and the groups lack unity of invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LAUREN ROBINSON whose telephone number is (571)270-3474. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 6am to 4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carol Chaney can be reached on 571-2721284. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Lauren E. T. Robinson
Examiner
AU1794

/LAUREN ROBINSON/
Examiner, Art Unit 1794

/Carol Chaney/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1794